REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1 and 3-5 were rejected as being anticipated by Hunter et al. (US 5606690). The applicant opposes those rejections, especially in view of the amendments set forth herein.

With respect to the remaining claims, 1-3, and 5-6, it appears that the examiner has improperly searched for text in the reference out of context. In other words, the examiner sought to satisfy each of the elements of the claims without consideration of whether the claimed combination was ever disclosed in the reference. Thus, while it is true that Hunter discusses deterministic finite state automata at the beginning of the specification, the reality is that Hunter does so only by way of background, and only to distinguish his own, non-deterministic, solution. Therefore, even if Hunter were correct in identifying passages that satisfy other elements of the three claims (a point on which the applicant disagrees), there is no teaching that those other elements are to combined with a deterministic, finite state automaton. Indeed, the opposite is true. All of the citations to text that supposedly satisfies other claimed elements refer entirely to Hunter's non-deterministic automata.

Specifically with respect to claim 1, the additional limitation of adding those transitions to the states that exactly matches all possible patterns is nowhere to be found in Hunter. In fact, the whole point of Hunter's invention is that the automaton should used rule based fuzzy logic to match unexpected patterns. Thus, Hunter fails to teach transitions that exactly match all possible patterns, but teaches away from that solution.

Added claim 7 narrowly claims that the step of adding transitions adds only those transitions that exactly match possible patterns that can start within the set of patterns to be matched.
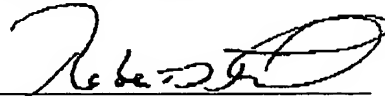
With respect to claim 3 and 5, the examiner purports to find teaching of an array at col. 14, lines 41-49, col. 16, lines 8-14, and col. 23, lines 1-10. But the text at those locations fails to mention or otherwise describe arrays or tables in any fashion. Indeed, the term "array" is completely absent from the Hunter specification, and the term "table" is absent from the specification with two exceptions referencing a concordance table for pre-indexed documents,

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with pointers to selected text strings within the documents (Hunter spec. col. 2, lines 4-5, and col. 9, lines -11). This makes eminent sense because Hunter's teaching are directed to a rule based system as opposed to a table based system. In the absence of prior art teaching of the claimed arrays, the office must allow those claims.

II. Request For Allowance

Claims 1-3, 5, and 6-7 are pending in this application. The applicant requests allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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